



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Draft Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting - *for comment 15-07-24*

17 June 2024, held at on Zoom

Present: Helen McMillan (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing & Treasurer), Colin Percy (Secretary), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), Daniel Armstrong (Social Media Officer), Jasper Bird (Student Rowing Rep), Eddie Bryant (Member), David Squirrell (Member), Pam Walton (Coach Education), Louise Forster (Competitions).

		Action by
1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>John Mulholland (Safety), Mark Hyson (Member), Caroline Scholl (Recreational Rowing), Dan Lockey (LDS & Equipment), Alan Meegan (British Rowing)</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting 29 April 2024</u></p> <p>A member said that the item under Student Rowing on page 4 was not right, in that we agreed to refer the issue of the increasing cost of race fees to the club development conference for discussion, not as stated to be raised by Louise direct with competitions. Apart from this they were agreed a correct record; Colin would publish an amended version.</p>	CP
3	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p><u>Items to raise with Alan Meegan as BR liaison contact</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
5	<p><u>Beach Sprint Performance Development Academy proposal</u></p> <p>Colin referred back to the contribution by Tom Pattichis (British Rowing, Olympic Pathway Manager) at our last meeting and to the open meeting for clubs and individuals at Tyne ARC on 5 June 24, with Tom and his boss Nathaniel Reilly-O'Donnell. He hoped members had read Tom's PowerPoint presentation to that meeting and to the Zoom recording made then that he had circulated about a week ago.</p>	

	<p>Colin said his perception was that the likely phases of the project running from September 2024 would in roughly two parts. Initially it might be fairly wide ranging with contact with most if not all clubs and hopefully visits and maybe some coach mentoring for those thinking of having beach sprint athletes. It might then move in to a focussed phase which would see a start on progressing people on the pathway to national/international selection.</p> <p>A number of people at the meeting on 5 June had commented on the ultimate outcome being to do with the high level pathway, though noting that the project would have an emphasis on promoting interest in schools and communities who might otherwise miss out. They had noted that there was not going to be mass participation in beach sprints, though hopefully there would be opportunities for all interested to at least get a taster or two.</p> <p>The Executive Committee members at this meeting (17 June) were generally supportive of the NRRC backing the project as currently presented, but would like it to have as wide as possible reach in terms of working with all interested clubs for at least part of the project. The wish to involve those who might not usually get such an opportunity was also supported and it was acknowledged that this might create a narrower focus away from existing clubs later in the project.</p> <p>There was not a consensus on whether there should be one or two main locations for focussing activity. South Shields and Redcar had both been mentioned. Having two would mean more thought would be needed on where to store boats and other equipment and how to move these around. Some help from clubs on trailering might be needed in any case.</p> <p>It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offer our support for the project to British Rowing - in saying this we would request that some of the work at least would be in liaison with existing clubs, where interest was already known to be strong; - a request should be made to be kept in touch with progress before and after the start of the project so we could keep clubs and members informed. 	CP
6	<p><u>Regional strategy and future plans for a conference or similar</u></p> <p>Before looking at the strategy, Helen said that its preparation should be in parallel to looking at how communication with the centre of BR happened and whether governance of BR was sufficiently sensitive to the needs of regions at the periphery.</p> <p>On the strategy, she said she would circulate shortly the redraft of the earlier adopted regional strategy that she had mentioned the last time. Jumping ahead there was discussion of how best to involve the region's clubs and competitions. The meeting agreed after discussion to look at</p>	HMCM

	<p>a meeting/workshop with club and competition reps in late September 2024, focussing on the strategy, and pencil in a full club development conference for its usual slot in late January 2025. It would include an update on the strategy. It was further agreed to seek an organiser for the latter as soon as possible.</p>	All
7	<p>Water quality in rowing locations</p> <p>Discussion on this topic had been requested by Jasper, who was out most direct link to student rowing on the Wear. There had been instances of visible sewage overflows plus many reports of stomach upsets which seemed to have a strong correlation with those students rowing. Achieving good hygiene measures was difficult for many college boat clubs as they lacked mains water for washing equipment and rowers themselves.</p> <p>Dan, who coaches on the Tyne said there were concerns there too, coupled with lack of concerted action by either the Environment Agency or Northumbrian Water on following up reports. There was uncertainty about who should be responding and taking action. Colin said there was a group looking at water quality and pushing for more regular quality checks on the Tyne, though focussed higher up at Wylam and above. But he thought working with such groups was vital on all rivers.</p> <p>Pauline said she and Geoff had watched the recent BR webinar on Clean Water – see www.britishrowing.org/2024/05/clean-water-webinar-invitation - for the background. Colin said he and Liz had done the same. Pauline said Geoff had done a good note and would circulate. Colin said he would see if Liz had done the same and from both would try and distil some action points regionally and locally.</p> <p>Helen said water quantity was an issued too, with high water levels increasingly impacting on competitions, quite often on the Wear at Durham but increasingly elsewhere too. She wondered if the LDS series should identify a seventh date as the default fall-back for cancelled LDS competitions.</p>	PH CP DL
8.	<p><u>Financial report</u></p> <p>Pauline had circulated the income and expenditure accounts since 1 September 2023. She reported that there had not been a large amount of activity since the last meeting. The current balance in the account was £14,037.37.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Officer reports</u></p> <p><i>N.B. Reference should be made to written reports, at www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html, as these were taken as read at the meeting. Key points or formal decisions only are mentioned here.</i></p> <p><i>Secretary (Colin Percy).</i> Colin said his report covered the beach sprints (see Item 6), but also the affiliation application by Dame Allan’s School</p>	

	<p>BC. This was still under discussion with BR. It was agreed to continue the delegation for a decision on this to the Chair as agreed at the last meeting.</p> <p><i>Rowing (Pauline Higgins)</i> Pauline's written report covered National Schools Regatta, GB U19 Pathway, juniors at Women's Henley, and upcoming J16 GB vs France J16 and Home International Regatta trials, beach sprints, report back from the national junior rowing council meeting and other items. She remarked at the good performances at Nat Schools. It would be at Nottingham in 2025.</p> <p><i>Umpiring (Richard Mortimer)</i> Richard's report covered new Rules of Racing (minor changes), improvement in cox weighing procedures, a relatively orderly regatta programme in terms of delays and weather. There had been ongoing work to encourage clubs to arrive at competitions with boats ready to race in terms of safety. There was brief discussion on some clubs complaining about competitions not dealing with entries fairly. Helen suggested this was a matter for direct discussion between the complaining clubs and the competitions.</p> <p><i>Masters rowing (Gabrielle Moore)</i>. In her written report Gabrielle said National Masters Regatta shortly before had gone well with record entries, though a short but sharp rain storm did disrupt racing one day. Water quality, high water levels, bureaucracy around coaching in clubs and handicapping featured in the national committee discussions.</p> <p><i>Competitions (Louise Forster)</i>. Louise reported said she was still seeking agreement to 2026 dates from clubs. For 2025 she said Wansbeck Regatta wished to move from 24 May to 31 May to avoid clashes. This was agreed, to be passed to BR. Competitions at CLSARC in autumn 2024 were still uncertain.</p> <p><i>Student Rowing (Jasper Bird)</i> Nothing to report with clubs winding down for the summer.</p> <p><i>Coach education (Pam Walton)</i> Pam in her written report referred to ongoing discussions at national level on coaching qualifications. She said the delayed Club Coach practical session was happening shortly. Dates for future courses were being discussed, including for first aid. The report also referred to the Great British Rowing Weekend (7/8 September) and Coaching Week (w/c 16 September).</p> <p><i>Safety (John Mulholland)</i> John's report referred to Control Commission checks and a collation of infringements since September 2023. Heel restraints were by far the most common fault (122), followed by bow balls (36), PFDs (21) and hatch covers (19). Efforts to encourage better pre-competition checks by clubs was continuing. He said in the report that anyone interested in safety should join the NRRC's Google Group as he posted national safety reports and alerts there.</p> <p><i>LDS and equipment (Dan Lockey)</i> A meeting to do a washup for the 2023 series and start planning for the 2024 season was in hand. Dates were already set (see the series web page). The PA kit was now with</p>	<p>CP HMCM</p> <p>LF</p> <p>LF</p> <p>PW</p> <p>DL</p>
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	<p>Talking Tarn ARC and off our books for £810.</p> <p>He was standing down from the LDS and equipment roles after the autumn series, though would deal with radios up to Rutherford Head. Helen asked for expressions of interest in the role. Richard said that the timing teams needed two new tablets at a cost of about £300. This expenditure was agreed.</p> <p><i>Recreational Rowing (Caroline Scholl with Colin Percy)</i> Caroline said in her report that she was making slow progress on looking at recreational tours on the region. She included an invitation from the West Midlands region to the finale of their Recreational League series at Stourport on 21 September. Boats could be provided for local trips. Colin in his Secretary's report said that this region's Sunday League was now underway after the cancellation at Berwick in April, with rounds at Tynemouth and Tyne run and Hexham imminent.</p> <p><i>Social Media (Dan Armstrong)</i> Dan said that work was progressing on NRRC's social media presence with an emphasis on Instagram first and linking in to a revamped web site. A library album of pictures and videos was being accumulated. He was unable to do much in the next two or three weeks in the build up to Henley, but would then start work again. Pauline said we needed to be conscious that not everybody had access to a computer or phone; and some were online, like her, but did not use social media. She did access the web site, though.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CS</p> <p>DA</p>
10	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>None recorded.</p>	
11	<p><u>Dates of meetings in rest of 2024</u></p> <p>Executive Committee 7.30pm Mon 23 Sep 24 In person, DARC *</p> <p>Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Mon 18 Nov 24 In person, DARC *</p> <p>* Zoom will be available</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm
Thanks to Richard for arranging the Zoom.

Colin Percy

Secretary

Northern Regional Rowing Council

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Web page for NRC meetings: www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html